

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Hunter Webb on 9/26/05.

The application has been amended as follows:

Claim 1, line 8, after "rear portion" add --"wherein the bumper is absorbent"--.

Claim 8, line 8, after "back guard" add --"wherein the bumper is absorbent"--.

Claim 20, line 8, after "^{rear portion}~~back guard~~" add --"wherein the bumper is absorbent"--.

Cancel claims 26, 27, and 29.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: The overall claimed combination of an incontinence article having a front guard extending above the rear portion vertically from a waist of the front to a middle chest area of a user and further comprising a bumper extending to transversely opposite side edges along a longitudinally outer edge of at least one of the front portion and the rear portion and where the bumper is absorbent is neither anticipated nor rendered obvious by the prior art of record.